



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 11, 2015

The Honorable Mark Leno
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Senate Bill 140 (Leno) – Electronic Cigarettes

Dear Senator Leno:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I am pleased to support Senate Bill 140 (Leno). This bill protects the community and its youth by regulating electronic cigarettes as tobacco products under the state's smoke-free laws and the Stop Tobacco Access to Kids Enforcement (STAKE) Act.

Long Beach takes the health and safety of our community incredibly seriously. On March 4, 2014, the Long Beach City Council voted to adopt one of the State's strictest e-cigarette ordinances. The City's municipal code currently classifies e-cigarettes as tobacco products, and treats the vaporized devices in much the same way as regular cigarettes, banning their use in restaurants, bars, workplaces, City parks and beaches. Long Beach's municipal code also bans e-cigarette sales to minors under the age of 18 and subjects vendors to inspections and potential sting operations by the City's health department.

Because of statutory discrepancy among State regulation of electronic cigarettes and tobacco products, there is a real concern for addressing electronic cigarette marketing tactics, accessibility to youth, and growing usage among young adults. SB 140 sensibly aligns State law with Long Beach's local ordinance by extending the STAKE Act to include electronic cigarettes. Long Beach supports classifying electronic cigarettes as tobacco products to protect children from the harmful effects of e-cigarettes and to prevent use among young adults.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach is proud to support SB 140.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Isadore Hall, III, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, State Assembly, 63rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District

